

# THE BASIN RECORD

The official newsletter of the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History



Founder Derryll White (left) and Keith Powell promote 'Forgotten Cranbrook' outside the CBIRH office in Cranbrook, B.C.

## Forgotten Cranbrook

Wild Horse Creek Press Publisher and Board Member at the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) Keith Powell suggested a book project to be co-authored by Executive Director Erin Knutson, Founder Derryll White and himself. So naturally, the CBIRH jumped at the chance to collaborate on an undertaking that would bring some of the Institute's rarest images to life in 'Forgotten Cranbrook.'

"This is a book I'm proud to co-author," said Powell of bringing the extensive collection of the CBIRH's to the public.

Powell saw the incredible potential in the CBIRH's archives which houses hundreds of thousands of historical images from the Basin, collected over two decades of work by White, dedicated staff members, and a board that continues to see the value in the preservation of history whether that's images, architecture, or stories.

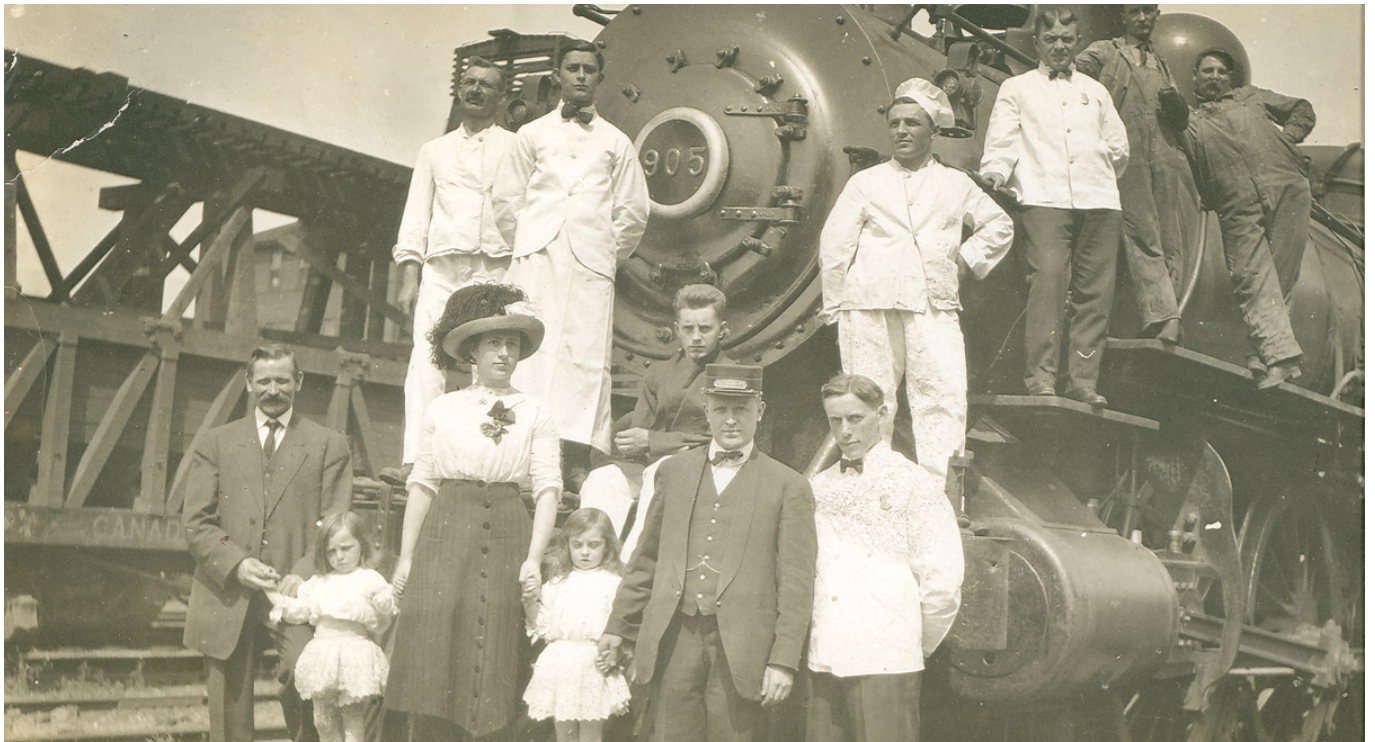
"They have an incredible photo collection, and I saw a way to tell a story about a town that grew from nothing into what it is today while showcasing this impressive body of work," said Powell.

Choosing a chronology from 1880 - 1960, Powell stated that, in some ways, the book wrote itself, with Knutson, White, and himself taking a third each of the content in a careful collaboration.

"It went well - we had a common vision, and we ran with it," he said.

For White, co-authoring the book was one of the greatest writing experiences of his career. "We did an incredible job collaborating, and I would do it again and love to work this intensely on another project with the same team," he said.

## Forgotten Cranbrook remembered in new book



#0018.0032 All Aboard - The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was a staple in early Canadian history, connecting the country from east to west, following its completion in 1885. Images courtesy of CBIRH

With the CBIRH board's approval, the editorial team and graphic designer Barbara Smok went to work compiling 'Forgotten Cranbrook,' with 90% of the images from the CBIRH's collection and the rest from their partners the Cranbrook History Centre, Kimberley Heritage Museum, and Moyie House Museum.

Profits from the book will be shared -the CBIRH structured a revenue-sharing model to support the Institute (a non-profit) and the publisher, which sponsors received warmly. According to Powell, the book ran out of space for sponsors, a reflection of Cranbrook, B.C.'s generosity and community spirit and one it is known for amongst local businesses.

"It warmed my heart to see the businesses on board with this prototype, a heritage book, with commercial support, and 14 sponsors who appreciated the concept and saw the value in these treasured images," he said. This local project includes 120 pages of historical photos of early Cranbrook and District accompanied by carefully researched text. It will feature many photos never or seldom seen before.

"Enjoy a copy of 'Forgotten Cranbrook,' the beginning of a legacy that will jog people's memories as they enjoy the nostalgia of the good old days," says Powell. Forgotten Cranbrook books are available at the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History 250 489 9150 or at Huckleberry Books 250 426 3415.



## *Leaving a Legacy*



Anne Edwards oversees students in a ceremony for the construction of the new School District #2 (Currently SD#5) Kootenay Orchards School in this Cranbrook Daily Townsman photo from Feb. 7, 1994. Image courtesy of CBIRH and Kimberley District Heritage Society

Following the recent passing of Anne Edwards on Oct. 15 in Calgary, Alberta, the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) was pleased to learn that the generous and community-minded spirit of Edwards was still present in a \$10,000 donation bequeathed to the Institute from the generous matriarch in her will.

"Anne served history well - she was on the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) board and helped the Institute with funding support while promoting multiple heritage projects and institutions," said CBIRH Founder and Historian Derryll White and longtime friend of Edwards. White helped Edwards unseat former cabinet minister Terry Segarty, a member of Bill Vander Zalm's Social Credit government, in the 1986 election.

"She entered politics as a novice in 1986; she quickly became a great study of the political process and political needs," said White.

She became Minister for Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, notably the first woman to do so under the leadership of Mike Harcourt and the NDP in 1991. The educator, journalist, politician, philanthropist and mother of four worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community during her time in East Kootenay.

Edwards took a posting as an editor and reporter at the Cranbrook Daily Townsman for several years following the start of her journalism career after her husband Mike Edwards's untimely death in an aeronautic accident in Cranbrook in 1969. She worked for several publications and continued to freelance, authoring several books from her home in Moyie before relocating to Calgary for the remainder of her life.

"I am not surprised at her generosity. Anne was a great asset to the arts, heritage and culture sector here," said White. Anne served as the president of CBIRH from 2009-2014, championing heritage interests in the Columbia Basin. According to White, Anne was passionate about community organizations, including School District No.5, the Cranbrook Archives, Museum and Landmark Foundation, BC Heritage Trust, and local theatre, to name a few of her many interests and where she contributed her time and vision. Her efforts were instrumental in the eventual arrival of Key City Theatre.

During her tenure at East Kootenay Community College, now College of the Rockies, she taught Business and Technical Writing and English Literature and Composition in the English Department. Edwards was a woman who furthered the rights of women to hold high office, inspiring others to be very influential in their communities. "Through all of her undertakings and offices, she held family, community, and friends at the centre of her life - this \$10,000 reflects that generosity," said White.

## Stepping into View



*Natalie Burgess (Event-Organizer) and Derryll White enjoy a moment at the CBIRH display at the Jaffray Fall Fair.*

Since our founding in 2004, we have wrestled with how to make history public and engaging. Lately, we have gotten smart – SMART TV, that is. The CBIRH has created digital displays for the public to enjoy in coffee shops and offices. These are loops of about 80 old photos each, designed to engage specific audiences. Loaded onto a USB stick and plugged into a TV, the images circulate along with texts crediting the CBIRH and our partners.

First Perk in Jaffray offers a digital display of the Jaffray-South Country region, focusing on old timers, a changing landscape and a changed way of life. Kootenay Grounds in Cranbrook has a display that features Cranbrook from 1930 to 1960 and includes views like the beautiful public garden that once sat where the RCMP building across the street now resides.

A digital display at the Kootenay Learning Campus presents views of Fernie and Coal Creek dating back to the early 1900s. Another exhibit at the School District #5 office in Cranbrook offers historical views of schools and educational events in the SD #5 area.

These digital displays have resulted in genuine interest and appreciation expressed by viewers. In some cases, we have received donations of old photos to scan for upcoming presentations. Making history public also gives the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History a higher profile, and the engagement is exciting.

We are always looking for new sites with SMART TVs that we can partner with to create a viewing experience to fascinate and inspire spectators.

# Celebrating good works this year



#0205.0491 - A team of horses pulls logs in Kimberley, B.C., on front hill road, in this wintry scene, dated 1929.  
Collection - Image courtesy of Kimberley District Heritage Society and the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History

Good tidings came early this year when we received a call from Will Nixon, Senior Manager of Delivery of Benefits, to offer us \$30,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) for our tech transition.

The offer culminated from our organization's dedication, perseverance and determination to advance this project - our Website and Digital Transformation. Upgrading our platform will bring us to a new level, where we can successfully integrate all of our strategic plan's objectives.

By modernizing our site and technology, we will support core funding for the CBIRH, enhance our profile, increase sales, enhance operational efficiency and bolster our online presence.

We have published the first edition of 'Forgotten Cranbrook' in partnership with Wild Horse Creek Press and Ex-Officio Keith Powell. We are promoting the book and completed a Shaw interview hosted by Powell with Talking Kootenay Books. It is scheduled for viewing in January. Special thanks to the Cranbrook History Centre and the Kimberley Heritage Museum for photo contributions.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page for further details on book sales. It will be a wonderful Christmas gift, and a portion of the proceeds will go back to support the Institute. Special thanks to our board members, volunteers, patrons, and partners for helping us realize our vision. Thank you from all of us here at CBIRH. Have a safe and merry holiday season!



Photographs from this publication are available for purchase from Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History. The photographs will be printed at a higher resolution than what is seen on the screen. Please come and check out our website [www.basininstitute.org](http://www.basininstitute.org)